

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 2597

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOREP (CODEL JAVITS)

SUBJECT: SENATOR JAVITS' REMARKS AND ANSWERS TO MEDIA QUESTIONS
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH P.M. KARAMANLIS ON MARCH 29

1. FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS AND ANSWERS TO MEDIA QUESTIONS BY
U.S. SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING HIMSELF WITH
PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS ON MARCH 29:

2. WELL, GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE HAD... I HAVE HAD A VERY PLEASANT
AND VERY ILLUMINATING, A VERY FRANK DISCUSSION WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER. MY INTEREST HERE IS AS A UNITED STATES SENATOR AND A
MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO SEE WHAT CONTRIBUTION
THE UNITED STATES CAN MAKE TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS
BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND TO A RE-CREATION OF THE SPIRIT
AND THE ACTUALITY OF THE DAYS OF THE ATATURK-VENIZELOS AGREEMENT
HERE. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE BREADTH OF VISION OF THE PRIME
MINISTER, BY HIS EARNEST DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION
OF THESE EXTREMELY GRAVE AND COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. MY OWN
COUNTRY IS IN A SENSE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO. IT IS...IT HAS A LONG
HISTORY OF DEEP FRIENDSHIP WITH GREECE; WE HAVE...SOME OF OUR MOST
DISTINGUISHED AND FINEST CITIZENS ARE OF GREEK EXTRACTION. WE
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ALSO HAVE DONE OUR UTMOST TO BRING ABOUT A FEELING OF DEMOCRACY AND
FREEDOM IN TURKEY. OUR RELATIONS, THE REASONS FOR OUR FRIENDSHIP,
ARE DIFFERENT BUT ARE NONETHELESS PROFOUND. I BELIEVE IT IS A CHALLENGE

TO OUR STATEMANSHIP TO SEE HOW WE CAN MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO A MORE
PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS. AND I'M CONFIDENT MY COUNTRY IS

FULLY DETERMINED TO DO THAT AND THAT THE CONGRESS IS. I HAVE URGED THE PRIME MINISTER, WHEN HE COMES TO THE UNITED STATES, TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE. I HAVE OFFERED TO ARRANGE THAT; HE HAS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED. I WISH I COULD GIVE YOU THE SPECIFIC THINGS THAT WE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON OR SETTLE, BUT THAT IS NOT MY MISSION. I'M ONE MEMBER OF A BODY OF 100. I WILL DO MY BEST TO BRING BACK AN HONEST REPORT AND TO INDICATE THE DIRECTIONS ALONG WHICH, I BELIEVE, WE CAN MOST CONSTRUCTIVELY PROCEED. THE UNITED STATES HAS... A POLITICAL, A SECURITY AND A MORAL PROBLEM. AND I DO NOT FOR ONE MINUTE DEPRECIATE THE MORAL VALUES WHICH DICTATED THE LAW PASSED BY THE CONGRESS RESPECTING THE EMBARGO. WHETHER OR NOT IT IS NOW TO BE RECONSIDERED -- IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH WE HAVE ACTUALLY ENTERED INTO WITH TURKEY AND THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH ACTUALLY ENTERED INTO WITH TURKEY AND THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH AWAITS SIGNATURE WITH GREECE -- IS SOMETHING WHICH MY COLLEAGUES AND I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER. BUT I CERTAINLY HAVE RECEIVED THE MOST COMPLETE EXPOSURE AND THE MOST ENLIGHTENED EXPOSURE TO GREECE'S POSITION, TO HER POINT OF VIEW, TO HER NEEDS. AND I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I AM EXTREMELY SYMPATHETIC.

3. Q. AND HOW WOULD YOU FEEL, PERSONALLY, ABOUT THE QUESTION OF THE EMBARGO, SIR?

4. A. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT WILL SOONEST PROGRESS THE PARTIES TOWARD AN AGREEMENT. WHEN YOU HEAR THE SITUATION UNCLASSIFIED

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HERE, YOU WOULD BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SIMPLY STAY WHERE WE ARE AND THAT THAT WOULD...SOONEST BRING THE PARTIES TO AN AGREEMENT. WHEN YOU HEAR THE SITUATION IN TURKEY, YOU ARE LED TO BELIEVE THAT IF YOU ACT ON THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, YOU WOULD...SOONEST BRING THE PARTIES TO AN AGREEMENT. I MUST SIMPLY GO HOME AND REVIEW WHAT I HAVE LEARNED AND THEN TRY TO COME TO SOME CONCLUSION WHICH I WILL RECOMMEND TO MY COLLEAGUES. I CANNOT... I HAVE NOT MADE A CONCLUSION AND I CANNOT MAKE IT HERE. MCCLOSKEY

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5. Q. AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN IN ANKARA AND ATHENS, DO YOU FEEL MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A SOLUTION IN THE GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEM?

6. A. I'LL TELL YOU WHY I DO FEEL MORE OPTIMISTIC. I HAVE RARELY SEEN TWO STATESMEN OF SUCH STATURE, OF SUCH ENLIGHTENMENT AND OF THE CAPACITY FOR AS MUCH OBJECTIVITY AS I HAVE IN THESE TWO STATESMEN, MR KARAMANLIS AND MR ECEVIT. ALSO, I THINK THERE IS A GREAT INDUCEMENT FOR THEM TO RISE TO THIS OCCASION AND TO DUPLICATE THE EXPERIENCE OF ATATURK AND VENIZELOS. I BELIEVE IT IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE SIZE OF LEADERS WHEN WE LIVE NEXT TO THEM. BUT I BELIEVE THESE LEADERS ARE FULLY...EQUAL TO THE TASK, AND THAT'S WHY I'M OPTIMISTIC.

7. Q. BUT THE QUESTION OF EMBARGO, SIR, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RELATIONS OR THE QUESTIONS OUTSTANDING BETWEEN ATHENS AND ANKARA. THE QUESTION OF THE EMBARGO, IT SEEMS TO BE LINKED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION.

8. A. NO, I THINK THE QUESTION OF EMBARGO IS LINKED WITH THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN PEACE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD; AND THAT'S THE WAY I WOULD CONSIDER IT. MCCLOSKEY

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